



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY WHITLOCK

If you had active duty military service within the past 30 years, you may be eligible for a bonus. The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs administers the bonus; in which active duty servicemembers and veterans who began their active duty service as a South Dakota resident could be eligible to receive a payment of up to \$500. Currently, the bonus is given for qualifying active duty service from August 2, 1990, to December 31, 1992; for qualifying service after January 1, 1993; or for those who are currently active duty.

South Dakota has a legacy of offering bonuses to servicemembers called to active duty in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Each of those bonus programs are now officially closed.

In 2005, after being deployed to the Middle East with my South Dakota Army National Guard unit, I applied for the current bonus program with the help of my local county veteran's service office. The one-page form is easy to complete. Applicants must prove South Dakota was their home of record prior to their active duty period and show where they were deployed and their character of service. If the applicant has a service-connected disability of 10% or more, they will need to submit their VA award letter with the application. Active duty for training is not allowed for bonus purposes.

As stated on the SDDVA website, our team advocates for veterans and works to link them to services and support. The veterans/active duty bonus is just one benefit offered to say thanks to our servicemembers for their hard work, bravery, and dedication to our country.

If you have questions about the bonus program, visit with your nearest county or tribal veterans service officer. A list of VSO locations is available under the "Veterans Service Officers" tab on the SDDVA website at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/>. You can also find a bonus application under the "Benefits" tab of our website. To verify whether or not you already received a bonus or to request an application form, please contact Jeri Smith at 605-773-7251 or email her at jeri.smith@state.sd.us.

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**SERVING
THOSE
WHO
SERVED!**

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Veterans and their partners will gather this weekend in Oacoma and Chamberlain for the South Dakota American Legion Midwinter Conference. The conference will be held at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center at Cedar Shore.



Committees will meet, updates and reports will be presented, and old friendships renewed. Saturday morning attendees will hear reports from State Commander Fred Nelson, Auxiliary President Teresa Hunter, SAL Detachment Commander Terry Hanson, National Commander Bill Oxford, SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock, South Dakota Highway Patrol and Boys Staters.

A full agenda can be found at: <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Up-To-Now-3280-2020-2-5.pdf>.

**April 21st
11 am - 4pm
Rapid City -
Rushmore
Mall**

KICKSTART YOUR SPRING HIRES!

KELOLAND

CAREER EXPO

FREE to jobseekers



Addressing the needs of veterans and other at-risk populations through evidence-based research and techniques.

1 in 3 veterans suffer from the effects of PTSD, leading to a staggering 20 veteran suicides a day

Music Therapy of the Rockies believes that number is not acceptable.

Through evidence-based study, lives are being transformed not only for the veterans, but their families, care partners, and community.

Our intensive retreats are designed to educate and address the symptoms of PTSD and utilize a whole brain approach. Veterans are finding their "new life" and learning how to reframe their view of military experience.

Upcoming Retreat - Milford, Iowa: May 8-10 at Camp Okoboji

To Register, visit:

<https://musictherapyoftherockies.org/programs/music-therapy-retreats/>
or email us info@musictherapyoftherockies.org

More Info: <http://musictherapyoftherockies.org>

Contact Us:

info@musictherapyoftherockies.org
970.456.6014

"It's not what you get out of the music, but what the music gets out of you."

**-Mack Bailey, Founder
Music Therapy of the Rockies**



EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH AND TECHNIQUES FOR:

coping skills | therapeutic interventions
mindfulness | songwriting
reframing stories and experiences
normalizing lives | repairing & rebuilding
relationships | self-confidence | self-esteem
emotional identification

WHAT OUR VETERANS ARE SAYING:

"You kick started my new life of loving myself. I can't stop talking about you and the weekend."

- Lesa, (RET) US Air Force

"The 11 veterans you had sitting before you on Saturday morning were not the same 11 people who got up on that stage last night and poured their hearts out to everyone in the room."

-Mallory, MT-BC

"I feel extremely honored to have my story memorialized in a song. That will certainly help heal another veteran."

-SGT Leonard Goodson III, (RET) US Army

"I'm alive and enjoying it because of you."

-Jeff (RET) US Army

MUSIC THERAPY OF THE ROCKIES

970.456.6014

info@musictherapyoftherockies.org

P.O. Box 3536 Aspen, CO 81612

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 21-23—American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center—Oacoma
Mar 1-5—National VFW Legislative Conference—Washington, DC
Mar 4—VABHHCS Art Show—Fort Meade VA Campus—Building 145 Classroom 109—1:00 pm (MT)
Mar 6—Drop-In Legal Service for Veterans—DAV Sioux Falls Chapter—1519 W. 51st Street—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
Mar 11—VABHHCS Art Show—Hot Springs VA Campus—Building 1 Rotunda—1:00 pm (MT)
Mar 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Mar 24—Culvers Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight
Mar 25—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Mar 27-29—SD Vietnam and Era Veterans Reunion—Dakota Sioux Casino—Watertown
Mar 30—SWO Vietnam Veterans Celebration—Dakota Magic Casino—11:30 am—1:30 pm (CT)
Apr 10-13 State Offices closed
Apr 21—KELOLAND Career Expo—Rushmore Mall—Rapid City—11:00 am—4:00 pm (MT)
Apr 26—Midwest Honor Flight Pancake Feed Fundraiser—Forster Community Center—Rock Rapids, IA—10:00 (CT)
May 8—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)
May 12—8th Annual WWII Veterans Luncheon—TREA Building—Rapid City—11:00 am (MT)
May 15-17—DAV State Convention—Brookings
May 21-22—PVA Annual Fishing Tournament—Chamberlain
May 25—MJFSVH Memorial Day Car Show—MJFSVH Campus—Hot Springs—11:30 am—3:00 pm (MT)
May 25—State Offices closed for Memorial Day
May 30—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7
June 3-7—VFW State Convention—Aberdeen
Jun 18-21—American legion State Convention—Huron
Jul 10—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Bldg. 145—Room 108—Fort Meade VAMC—10:00 am (MT)
Aug 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota Conference Center—Pierre
Sep 3—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
Sep 3-7—SD State Fair
Sep 10—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8 (Tentative)
Sep 11—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Oct 11—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9 (Tentative)
Nov 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)

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